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WASHINGTON BUREAU
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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(202) 638-2269 FAX (202) 638-5936

August 19, 2004

The Honorable Michael K. Powell, Chairman
The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Commissioner
The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Commissioner
The Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner

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AUG 19 2004

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 04-242 and CC Docket. No. 01-338

Ex Parte Filing

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to expedite the FCC regulatory process that would clarify Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. By granting broadband service providers, such as Verizon and other companies that seek to expand and deploy broadband with the necessary regulatory tools, we are convinced broadband services would be more comprehensively deployed in underserved communities, including communities of color. As you are aware, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest, largest and most widely recognized grass-roots based civil rights organization. The NAACP's principal objective is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of racial and ethnic minority group citizens of United States and to eliminate race prejudice. The NAACP seeks to remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes. Accordingly, the NAACP views the removal of barriers to the ubiquitous deployment of broadband as instrumental in ensuring that all Americans have access to affordable, comprehensive communications services, particularly consumers in high-cost service areas, low-income consumers, schools, libraries and urban and rural health care providers.


Most of our constituents are racial and ethnic minorities and all too many of them live in underserved communities. Without a consistent and fair national

broadband policy, companies are hesitant to invest in new technologies providing this much- needed service and creating urgently needed jobs. We have followed this issue not only because we believe technology is a driving competitive force, but the technology sector is one of the most likely places to find viable employment for Americans. Without the right tools, our constituents will continue to be left behind and unable to compete in an increasing technologically-driven global economy.

If there is anything else we can do to assist you in expediting this process, I can be contacted at (202) 638-2269.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Hilary D. Shelton
Director